

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083690
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEEN,JR.:AVM
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEEN,JR.
EA/P - MR. SMITH (SUBSTANCE)
S/S - MR. SHANKLE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083690

EXDIS
STADIS EYES ONLY FOR HOLBROOKE FROM GLEYSTEEEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE IN SEOUL

REF: SEOUL 2907

1. SAM JAMESON'S LA TIMES PIECE (CARRIED IN TODAY'S EA
PRESS SUMMARY AND LAST NIGHT'S WIRELESS FILE) ON YOUR
PRESS CONFERENCE IN SEOUL PROMPTED PHONE CALL FROM HIRC
STAFFER BOETTCHER TO MORT SMITH. BOETTCHER ASKED IF LA
TIMES STORY WAS ACCURATE. SMITH READ PORTIONS OF PRESS
CONFERENCE TRANSCRIPT. BOETTCHER SAID HE AND FRASER
GREATLY CONCERNED OVER STORY. THEY FELT THAT IN THEIR
MEETING WITH YOU THEY HAD RECEIVED THE MOST FORTHCOMING
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AND POSITIVE STATEMENT OF POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS THEY HAD
EVER RECEIVED. HE VIEWED YOUR REPORTED REMARKS AS AN
APPARENT EFFORT TO BACKTRACK. BOETTCHER SAID THAT FRASER
HIMSELF BELIEVES THE STATEMENT WILL MAKE COOPERATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT DIFFICULT AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE
SECRETARY ON THIS.

2. LATER IN THE DAY DURING PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING, I SPOKE TO BOETTCHER TRYING TO CALM HIM DOWN BY EXPLAINING THAT YOU HAD IN FACT DISCUSSED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN YOUR TALK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HAD DONE SO IN THE

CONTEXT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FIRM APPROACH TO THIS MATTER. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW WHY YOU HAD MADE YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BUT THAT NEITHER BOETTCHER NOR FRASER SHOULD BE THROWN OFF BY THOSE REMARKS. ALTHOUGH BOETTCHER'S ATTITUDE SOFTENED, HE, NEVERTHELESS, DELIVERED A VERY STRONG LETTER FROM FRASER TO THE SECRETARY COMPLAINING ABOUT THE ISSUE, ASKING FOR AN EXPLANATION, AND STATING THAT HE WANTS TO SEE YOU AND THE SECRETARY UPON YOUR RETURN (SEE SEPTTEL).

3. IT WILL NOT BE TOO HARD TO ANSWER FRASER'S LETTER AND AFTER YOU RETURN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MOLLIFY HIM BY TALKING TO HIM. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER A BRIEF PRESS STATEMENT WHICH WOULD CLARIFY WHAT YOU DID IN SEOUL.

4. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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To: JAKARTA
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